

control access, to defund Planned Parenthood, and to restrict abortions, Republicans are chipping away at Americans' health, at Americans' safety, and at Americans' economic independence.

In 2018, the Title X Program served nearly 4 million people annually, but in 2019, the Trump administration issued a radical gag rule that decimated the title X provider network, causing more than 1,000 healthcare centers to leave the program and severely restricting access to basic primary and preventive healthcare services. The COVID-19 pandemic only made access to these services even more difficult, disproportionately harming low-income communities and people of color.

By 2020, with the combined effects of the Trump administration's awful policy and the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was only able to serve 1.5 million people—less than half the number of people it had served in 2018. In Massachusetts, by January 2021, only one title X grantee remained, and six States had no title X providers at all even though the need had grown.

Now, fortunately, last October, the Biden-Harris administration reversed Trump's radical assault on the Title X Program. That was an important victory which prioritized patients' needs, patients' health equity, and access to a broad range of services provided by title X providers.

Now, however, Senator RUBIO is once again trying to turn back the clock on healthcare and reproductive rights in what is just the latest attempt to deny people access to critical healthcare. If enacted, Senator RUBIO's resolution would harm millions of Americans, people who rely on title X providers like Planned Parenthood, local health departments, and community health centers for family planning and sexual health services.

Healthcare is a basic human right. Everyone deserves access to affordable family planning and sexual health services, from birth control to STI treatments, to pregnancy tests, no matter their ZIP Code, no matter their income. People of color, people living in rural areas, people living in medically underserved areas, and people with low incomes already face immense disparities in healthcare access and in health outcomes. If we return to this radical Trump-era policy and cut back on basic healthcare services, the effects will disproportionately harm communities of color, uninsured people, and low-income people, exacerbating existing health disparities.

This vote couldn't come at a worse time. The United States is facing surging rates of sexually transmitted infections. On top of that, Americans are facing rampant attacks on abortion and reproductive rights all across this country. Abortion has been virtually inaccessible to millions of Texans for several months now.

Even though the majority of Americans—the majority of Americans—agree that *Roe v. Wade* should remain

the law of the land, the Supreme Court is poised to overturn the decision in just 2 months. Meanwhile, Republican-controlled State legislatures, emboldened by our extremist Supreme Court, have passed over 500 anti-abortion bills this year alone. Just this month, three more States enacted clearly unconstitutional attacks on abortion, counting on an extremist Supreme Court to back them up later on.

That is why now is the time to strengthen and expand access to critical birth control and other essential healthcare services that the Title X Program provides. That means not just defending title X but increasing funding for the program so that HHS can rebuild the title X provider network and adequately fund the providers, many of whom have already been approved for grants but who haven't received a single dollar because there simply isn't enough funding to meet the need.

Let's be clear. This is not just about healthcare; it is yet another rightwing attempt to deny people—especially people of color, especially LGBTQ+ people, especially low-income people—the right to control their own futures. This is about economic justice. People who can't access basic reproductive and healthcare services cannot fully participate in our economy, and they have fewer economic opportunities going forward. An unplanned pregnancy can derail an education or the early steps of a career.

So, today, I am fighting to defend title X—a program founded in 1970 with bipartisan support. I am fighting to defend it from radical, rightwing attacks. Republican politicians may think that they will win by dividing Americans, but when it comes to the fight for reproductive rights, we will fight to ensure that every person gets the care they need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING ORRIN G. HATCH

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of an extraordinary man, a giant among Senators, and a dear friend: Senator Orrin Hatch. He was a man of vision and unparalleled legislative accomplishment.

As the longest serving Senator in Utah's history, his unwavering dedication to our State and country during four decades of public service will be remembered for generations to come. Few individuals have left such an indelible mark on the U.S. Senate. He did this through his legislation. He did it through the relationships he had with other Senators. He did it through bipartisanism. He did it through his relationship with Presidents of both parties.

Like his good friend Ted Kennedy, he was the lion of the Senate. Now, I know that there have been a number of Senators who take responsibility for accomplishing many things, but I don't

think there has ever been a legislator who has gotten more done legislatively than Orrin Hatch. Our judiciary, the fundamentals of our economy, even our national character are more elevated and more secure thanks to his leadership, thanks to his undaunted capacity to plow ahead. Sponsoring and cosponsoring more legislation than any other Member at the time of his retirement, he used his time in this Chamber to work tirelessly to help people who sometimes were overlooked. He reached across the aisle to forge strong bipartisan relationships that allowed him to pass landmark legislation.

Orrin Hatch and Ted Kennedy were once signing a bill together, celebrating the same bill, and President Reagan turned to Orrin Hatch and said, "How is it that you and Ted Kennedy are celebrating the same piece of legislation?" Orrin turned back and looked at him and said, "Well, it's very simple, Mr. President. It's very clear that one thing is obvious: One of us didn't read it."

His sense of humor was well known in this Chamber and throughout our State. His friends often remarked that Orrin could have been a standup comic if he wanted to, but he had too many important things to do to take that job seriously.

He put friendship above politics. He called me in 1994. I was then running for a Senate seat against Ted Kennedy. It was kind of a tall task for a guy from Massachusetts to go up against Ted Kennedy, but I figured someone needed to do it and wanted to see if I couldn't get Ted Kennedy on the right track. But, at that time, Orrin Hatch and I hardly knew each other. We were just distant acquaintances. But he was a close friend of Ted Kennedy's, and he called me and said, "Mitt, you know I am a Republican too. I am responsible for helping get a lot of Republicans elected, but I am not going to come campaign for you," and he said, "because Ted Kennedy is just that good of a friend." Orrin put friendship above politics.

Now, in addition to his legislative accomplishments, Orrin Hatch played a pivotal role in several landmark confirmations while serving as one of the longest chairs of the Senate Judiciary Committee. His positive impact on the State of Utah and the Nation's Federal judiciary cannot be overstated.

When I was asked to run the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, I met with Orrin Hatch and said, "I am going to need your help." He made it very clear that the success of the Olympics, coming, as they were going to do, to our State, would be a high priority for him and that he would do whatever was necessary to support our effort.

Then came the crisis of 9/11 in 2001. I knew that I couldn't invite the people of the world to come to Salt Lake City unless I was 100 percent confident that everything that could be done would be done to keep them safe. Without the

help of the Federal Government, there could be no secure provision for the Games and no certainty that we could be protected.

The morning after the attacks of 9/11, I happened to be in Washington, and I called Senator Hatch on the phone. He at the time was in his Senate office. I asked if we could get together at some point to talk about how we could move forward and provide the security funding that might be necessary to protect our Games. Without hesitation, he said, "Come over to the office right now."

I did so. When we got there, we sat down, and he said, "What do you think you need?" And I described the need for fencing and personnel to evaluate the security threats that might exist, a military air capacity to secure the skies over Salt Lake City during the Games.

He said: Well, what is the biggest challenge you will face?

I said: Well, Senator John McCain of Arizona has not been a fan of providing support for Olympic Games. He thinks that money has been misused in the past.

He said: Well, it wouldn't be misused now, given what has happened with 9/11. Let's go see John McCain right now.

He picked up the phone and called Senator McCain. Senator McCain said he would be happy to see me and his friend Orrin Hatch. We went over to Senator McCain's office and sat down. Orrin Hatch proceeded to describe how important it was that we host the games and that Senator Hatch get the support that he needed. And, in fact, Senator McCain made it very clear he would not stand in the way of doing anything we needed to secure the games in Salt Lake City.

I owe Orrin Hatch a great deal of credit for helping us to be able to host games in Salt Lake City successfully and to do so without security incident.

I think everyone knows that Orrin Hatch was a man of tremendous faith. He was an advocate to protect religious freedom, and legislation that he authored in this regard still stands in protecting the rights of people of faith in our country today. He dedicated his life to a commitment to Jesus Christ and to the principles of Christianity. He did so in my own faith by accepting callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving as both a missionary as a young man and later as a bishop of a congregation.

Orrin Hatch enjoyed life and appreciated all that it had to offer. You may know that he was a composer and has a number of songs and musical performances to his credit. He wrote poetry. He wrote jokes. When I was running for President, he sent me a whole page of jokes he wanted me to use. I must admit, I looked at them one by one. I didn't think they were that funny, but I read them to the people on the bus and they listened to them one by one and the more they listened, the

funnier they got. By the time I was finished with the page, they were howling with laughter.

The man had an extraordinary capacity with music, with humor, with legislation, with friendships—really one of a kind.

He also was pretty good at self-deprecating jokes. He told me to lighten up a little bit and be a little more free with my language, so I decided to let "heck" and "dang" drop into my words from time to time.

His affinity for buffets and bacon were not to be forgotten as well. In his words, we should choose "to live every day like [it was] Bacon Lovers Day." And I hope we will savor life as he did.

Orrin Hatch believed that the people you love and the friends you have are the real currency in life. I believe that deeply. He had a lot of friends, not just in this room but friends throughout these buildings, friends throughout our State.

I remember walking through the Capitol with Orrin Hatch and from time to time someone would come up to him and want to ask him a question or ask for help on some issue of theirs. And instead of doing what most of us do—which is putting our head down and rushing on and pointing out that we have important things to get to—he would stop and bend his very tall physique down to listen to what the person had to say and listen attentively and say he would do what he could to help. I have seen that time and time again with Orrin Hatch.

He always had time for the people he served, and he believed he served all the people of the United States of America. Not surprisingly, he had and still has a lot of friends.

Of course, when you think of people he loves, first on that list would be his wife Elaine and their family. They together raised 6 children and 23 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren. He and Elaine were married for more than six decades. She has been by him every step of his career and his political involvement in our country.

Ann and I send our deepest condolences to Elaine and the entire Hatch family. God be with you until we meet again, Orrin. I hope you feel I haven't let you down taking your place in this great Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Oklahoma.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, about 6 years ago, I came to this floor and presented an idea: How do we get on top of our debt and deficit? Are we going to get on top of our debt and deficit?

Interestingly enough, for each of us and our own families, we can all tell a story about a season in our life that we really hit hard times. I have had several where the money was really tight and our family was very attentive to what we were spending—very—those moments when we would literally make sure that every time we went to

the grocery store, we only spent this much because we knew we had an electric bill coming in; we knew we had our rent coming due.

My family has most definitely been there. My wife and I, when we were first married, we had a rule that we couldn't ever spend more than \$25 without the other person knowing it because our fear was when we were first married that one of us would spend \$30 and the other would spend \$35 that day and we would blow up our bank account because we were living that close to the edge and just getting by while I was at school and we were just getting started. A lot of families have been that way.

You can tell how serious a family is about dealing with their debt by how seriously they take their expenses. There are some individuals that have massive debt that still keep running up their credit card. They keep buying more and more product. They still use their credit card and go get additional electronics and get extra stuff on it and max out this card and then I will max out another one, not with essentials, just with fun—not paying attention to the fact that someday that comes due.

When I started presenting the idea of the "Federal Fumbles," my whole concept was simple: Where is it the Federal Government is dropping the ball; that we are not paying attention to the areas we need to be able to pay attention to in our spending? It is a well-known fact that we have trillions in debt. In fact, as a nation, we have now crossed \$30 trillion in total debt—\$30 trillion. It is interesting that the conversation doesn't seem to be serious. We don't seem to be in a dialogue about how we are going to actually bring our debt down. We are still spending on other things and still saying, not we are limited in what we can do; we seem to be adding more to the mix. It is not necessarily on essential things; it just seems to be on things.

The "Federal Fumbles" book that I released this week, put on our website, just details several different items. One is, where are we in our debt and how did we get here? But I also try to walk through some of our trust funds on this because I think it is important.

Where are we on Medicare trust funds? By the way, we are 4 years away from insolvency on Medicare—4 years. Where are we on Social Security? We are 12 years away from insolvency in Social Security—12. Where are we on the highway trust fund? We are well past insolvency on the highway trust fund, and we have been accelerating our borrowing to try to cover more and more. In fact, that was done even recently.

I laid out a set of ideas of how do you actually solve some of these things and how are we going to address it. But I also laid out some of my frustrations that said, at some point, this body is going to be serious about dealing with debt and deficit, but apparently we are not yet.